plea for take-over of the Indian Council of World Affairs management; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken on the representations by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, sir.

(b) Indian Council of World Affairs is an autonomous body and it is not the policy of the Government to take over such bodies. After extensive consultations, the Government have decided to constitute a high-powered committee to look into the affairs of I.C.W.A. However, this committee can only be set up on a specific request of the Council itself, it being an autonomous body. Presently, the governing body of the Council is being persuaded to pass a resolution requesting the Government to constitute such a committee.

Report on Islamic Terrorist Camp

1625. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is Government's reaction to a Report "The New Islamic International" produced by the US House of Representatives Republican research committee:

(b) whether Government has taken any action on the 29 Kashmiri Subsitive groups who have been receiving assistance and shelter in Pakistan; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take with regard to reported Islamic terrorist in Gohat, Larkana, Sialkot and Lahore where they are trained on the latest weapons and they infiltrated into India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Government have obtained details relating to the House Republican Research Committee's report titled "The New Islamic International" which in its Section on Pakistan, Afghanistan and the Export of Terrorism noted the assistance, as per an active ISI programme, to Kashmiri militants. Government have been continuously appraising friendly Governments, including the US, of the continuous support in terms of arms, equipment and training by Pakistan to terrorists in India.

(b) and (c) Government constantly monitor developments relating to India's national security and remain committed to take necessary steps to safeguard India's territorial unity and integrity.

Increase in the Passport Fee

1626. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an unprecedented hike in the passport fee and if so, the quantum of increase;

(b) what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have also taken steps to streamline the process of issue of passport if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) Passport fees were revised w.e.f. 10th July, 1993. to bring them in line with the cost of production and preparation of passports and the provision of passport services. The revised fee schedule is given in the enclosed statement (*see* below).

(c) Yes, Sir. Government have taken a number of measures to streamline the process of issue of passports. These include augmentation of staff strength; increase in the supply of passport booklets; introduction of a incentive scheme; upgradation of office facilities and a review of systems and procedures in order to increase productivity and reduce delays.